

Doc 567
Lowell, Vermont
Town Records, 1812-1934

Introduction

This collection consists of a variety of documents from the town of Lowell, Vermont, including deeds, vital records, bonds, justice writs, liens, surveys and various other documents from the period 1812 to 1934. The collection was donated to the Vermont Historical Society by the descendants of A. Fern Souther in 2004 (ms. acc. no. 2004.17) along with her own papers, which form a separate collection. The collection is housed in a single document storage box and consumes one linear foot of shelf space.

Agency Note

The town of Lowell is located in Orleans County, Vermont, near the Canadian border. It was originally known as Kelleyvale; the name was changed to Lowell in 1831. The first town meeting was held in 1812; the records contained herein go back to those earliest times.

Scope & Content

Included in this collection are a wide variety of documents of interest to the genealogist and historian. Many of these documents have been copied into town record books, but there are some unique documents that have not. An example is permissions to marry, wherein parents or guardians, often on small scraps of paper, have given their permission for an underage person to marry. Even when documents are copied into town records, the possibility of transcriptional errors makes these original records important.

Arrangement

The collection has been unfolded, sorted and placed into folders containing similar materials, arranged chronologically. Originally, most of the materials were folded and bound with string, generally with other similar items but sometimes mixed with dissimilar ones. Where closely related documents were clipped, stapled, or otherwise joined together attempts were made to retain that association. When that was done, strict chronological sequence within a folder was sometimes disturbed.

An inventory of each folder was created, including type of document, date and description. That inventory appears at the front of each folder. Documents are arranged within the folders in chronological sequence, and each may be referred to in the listing by number; however, the documents themselves were not numbered. A single exception to the chronological ordering is in the folder containing permissions to marry. In that folder, the permissions were arranged alphabetically.

A name index to the collection was also assembled and is in folder 0. The index is to the names appearing in the folder inventories which appear at the front of each folder, so is not comprehensive. The inventories include the most significant names in the documents, such as the grantee and grantor for deeds. There are many other names, however, which appear in the documents but are not included in the index.

Inventory

Doc 567:01	Births, 1896-1902.
2	Permissions to marry, 1871-1898.
3	Marriages, 1870-1903.
4	Deaths and burial permits, 1896-1902.
5	Deeds, 1837-1849.
6	_____, 1850-1859.
7	_____, 1860-1899.
8	_____, 1900-1909.
9	_____, 1910-1919.
10	_____, 1921-1934.
11	Bonds, 1812-1910.
12	Liens, 1871-1924.
13	Justice writs, 1881-1889.
14	_____, 1893-1899.
15	_____, 1900-1906.
16	Chattel mortgage returns, 1888-1904.
17	Surveys, 1855-1901.
18	School documents, 1870-1904.
19	Elections, 1898-1908.
20	Tax-related documents, 1850-1920.
21	Miscellaneous documents, 1860-1917.

Bob Murphy
May 2007
lowellrecords.doc